

# Dawn

*My oldest son, Scott was diagnosed with schizophrenia at the age of 23 and struggled with that illness for 10 years. In February 2020, he died by suicide. It is so difficult to watch your loved one struggle with an illness that so many people do not understand and is not a physical illness that they can see. We always thought we would be able to find a way for Scott to manage his illness but tragically we ran out of time. After he died, I needed to make a decision on how I would handle this loss. It took me many months but I decided to find a purpose and a way to honor Scott's life. That purpose is to help others by educating youth, parents, law enforcement, and the public about mental illness and suicide awareness as well as removing the stigma of both of these. Our non-profit's mission is to do exactly that and it has given me hope and a path to healing.*